

1 Claims

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3 1. A slotted expandable centraliser.

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5 2. A centraliser as claimed in claim 1, having a
6 body with a bore to accept a tubular, and being
7 adapted to expand radially from a non-expanded
8 configuration to an expanded configuration.

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10 3. A centraliser as claimed in claim 2, wherein
11 the slots are longitudinal in the non-expanded
12 configuration and diamond-shaped in the expanded
13 configuration.

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15 4. A centraliser as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3,
16 being adapted to receive an expandable tubular and
17 adapted to deform radially with the expandable
18 tubular upon expansion of the tubular.

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20 5. A centraliser as claimed in any of claims 2 to
21 4, wherein the centraliser has at least one blade
22 that projects radially outward of the body in the
23 non-expanded configuration.

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25 6. A centraliser as claimed in claim 5, wherein
26 the at least one blade projects radially outward of
27 the body in the expanded configuration.

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29 7. A centraliser as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6,
30 wherein the at least one blade is adapted to change
31 configuration during expansion of the centraliser.

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1 8. A centraliser as claimed in claim 5 or claim 6,
2 wherein the at least one blade is adapted to retain
3 its configuration during expansion of the
4 centraliser.

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6 9. A centraliser as claimed in any of claims 5 to
7 8, wherein the at least one blade has the same
8 thickness as the body.

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10 10. A centraliser as claimed in any preceding
11 claim, having slotted portions circumferentially
12 adjacent to non-slotted portions.

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14 11. A centraliser as claimed in claim 10 when
15 dependent on any of claims 5 to 9, wherein the at
16 least one blade is located in a non-slotted portion.

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18 12. A centraliser as claimed in any of claims 1 to
19 9, wherein the slots are uniformly distributed over
20 the centraliser.

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22 13. A centraliser as claimed in any preceding
23 claim, wherein the slots are arranged in
24 longitudinally aligned rows with slots in adjacent
25 rows being axially offset with respect to one
26 another so that the ends of circumferentially
27 adjacent slots overlap.

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29 14. A centraliser as claimed in any preceding
30 claim, wherein the slots are of uniform dimension.

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1 15. A centraliser as claimed in any preceding
2 claim, being adapted to deform plastically.

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4 16. A centraliser as claimed in any preceding
5 claim, being adapted to deform elastically.

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7 17. A centraliser as claimed in any preceding
8 claim, being a casing centraliser.

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10 18. A centraliser assembly comprising a slotted
11 expandable centraliser which has a body with a bore
12 to accept a tubular, and is radially expandable from
13 a non-expanded configuration to an expanded
14 configuration; and an expandable tubular, located in
15 the bore of the centraliser.

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17 19. An assembly as claimed in claim 18, wherein the
18 centraliser is a casing centraliser.

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20 20. An assembly as claimed in claim 18 or 19,
21 wherein the tubular comprises casing, liner or a
22 screen.